

skills necessary for negotiating religious and cultural differences in a diverse society and world.

## **DEVELOPING THE COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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The changes in culture, society, politics, and economics determine one of the major problems of modern higher education such as undeveloped qualities of young professionals that cause activation of self-transformation of the individual, that is, self-improvement, self-fulfillment, professional self-development. The process of self-improvement as in terms of education and in terms of teaching foreign languages is essential in the formation of the necessary skills that future specialists should have.

One of the requirements of modern society to future professionals is knowledge of foreign language. At foreign language lessons a teacher should not only teach students' communicative skills that is to develop the ability to express and defend their own opinion in a foreign language. A teacher should develop students' wish as highly-skilled future specialists' desire to constant self-development of their communication skills. Developing the communicative skills and later development students' self-improvement needs is one of the main aims of teaching foreign languages.

For this purpose, the content of the various workshops are introduced individually oriented forms of influence on individuality of student to study his or her ways of self-knowledge, self-improvement and the development of communicative skills. So students are proposed such exercise as "Envelope of openness." It creates favorable atmosphere for self-development and development of communicative skills. To do this exercise, students have to answer the questions that allow speak openly about what cares and what is interesting, to understand and realize the value of other person by using a foreign language.

To activate the realization of personal qualities that are necessary for professional development students are engaged in active cognitive activities in certain forms. Thus, the purpose of discussions on "Professional of the 3-d millennium" is an opportunity for students to understand what general requirements are necessary for a modern specialist, to give them the opportunity to express their opinion in a foreign language and to lead them to understanding the necessity of constant self-development of communicative skills.

Thus, in the process of teaching foreign languages a teacher should not only teach and give the opportunity to express students' own opinion in a foreign language but to develop a steady desire to self-develop communicative skills in a foreign language.

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## **DISTANCE LEARNING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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Distance learning is a useful tool nowadays. It allows the learner to improve his/her English as well as enables the teacher to use authentic language resources more widely.

Relevance of the research is conditioned by the fact that the specifics of distance learning of foreign languages at higher educational establishments in Ukraine still requires further development and improvement.

Distance learning technologies have been studied by N. Hockly, H. Dudeney, N. Mayer, O. Andreyev, Ye. Dmytriyeva, V. Kukharenko, V. Svyrydiuk, Yu. Horvyts, N. Mulina, Ye. Polat, A. Khutorsky and others.

The objective of the research is to determine specifics of distance learning of foreign languages at higher educational establishments in Ukraine and develop some recommendations on raising the level of its quality.

Advantages of distance learning are: its flexibility, modular structure, opportunity of parallel work with a large number of learners, effectivity, technical support, availability for everyone, international nature, etc.

Distance learning of foreign languages facilitates updating the content of the study and methods of teaching and learning a foreign language. It is a valuable tool in choosing the best forms of work for every learner and grants individualization of the learning process. It promotes life-long learning and international exchange.

However, it should be taken into account that in learning a foreign language communication is vitally important. That's why implementation of distance learning courses at universities and colleges should not substitute auditory classes but supplement them. Distance learning is very helpful in organizing self-study of the students.

Specifics of distance learning of foreign languages is that it does not teach basics of science, it facilitates developing skills in the main speech activities: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Thus, some recommendations to distance courses for learning English have been developed.

Every distance course for learning any foreign language should contain different kinds of tasks for the development speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.